



*Wilhelmus Conquestor. Rex
Angliae Dux Norman: etc.*



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THE

Life & Death

OF

WILLIAM,

Surnamed

The Conqueror:

King of *ENGLAND*, and Duke
of *NORMANDY*.

Who dyed *Anno Christi*, 1087.

By *Samuel Clarke*, late Minister of *Bennet-
Finck London*.

L O N D O N,

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KING of ENGLAND,
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Who dyed *Anno Christi*, 1087.

THE Normans issued out of Denmark, His Pedigree and Norway, the Inhabitants of which Countries in those times were so fruitful in the Procreation of Children, that they were forced oft-times to send multitudes abroad to seek new habitations. Amongst whom there was one *Roul, a great Commander, attended with many lusty lads, who in the dayes of King *Alfrid*, first landed in *England*; where finding no room empty, nor any imployment, was content (upon some relief received) to seek imployment else-where; which he did against *Rambalt* Duke of *Frize*, and *Reiver* Duke of *Chamont*, and *Hewalt*, with whom he often encountred, and made great spoiles in their Countries. Then passing along the Coast of *France*, he entred the mouth
B of

* or Rollo.

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of the River *Seine*, and sackt all the Country up to *Roan*: where the People having been a little before miserably spoiled by an other Invader, were so terrified by the coming of these new Forces, that the Archbishop of *Roan*, by the peoples consent, offered him the obedience of that City and Country upon condition that he would protect them, and govern them according to the Laws of Christ, and the customes of their Countrey. For *Charles* the Simple, the present King of *France*, being otherwise embroiled about the right of his Crown, neglected to defend them: So that *Roul* shortly after attempted the Conquest of *Paris* itself, and therein gave some notable overthrowes to some of the *French* Commanders: So that King *Charles* was forced to buy his Peace by entering into alliance with, and giving over to *Roul*, his right to *Normandy*, (formerly called *Nuestria*). And hereupon *Roul* turned Christian, and was baptized by the name of *Robert*.

Thus he came to his Estate, which he governed with such Judgment and equity, that he left his Name honourable, and his successours a firme foundation to build upon. From him in a direct line descended six Dukes of *Normandy* that inherited that Dukedome, the last of which, was also called *Robert*, who (out of blind devotion) resolving to visit Christ's Sepulchre, acquainted his Nobles therewith: They dissuaded him all they could, because he had no issue, and *Allaire* Earl of *Britaine*, and the Earle of *Burgundy* were already contending which of them should succeed him, whereby their Country was like to become a Prey to the Souldiers, from which he in conscience was bound to secure it.

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The Duke told them, that he had a little Bastard, of whom he had great hopes, whom he would invest with that Dutchy as his Heir, and therefore he prayed them thenceforth to take him for their Lord. And (said he) *To shew my trust in him, I will make the Earl of Britaine his Governour, and Seneschal of Normandy; and the King of France shall be his Guardian, and so I will leave him to God and your Loyalty.*

His Birth
and Pa-
rentage.

Shortly after the Bishops and Barons did their homage to this base Son, named *William*, whom his Father begat on one *Arlet*, a mean woman of *Falaise*. And Duke *Robert* delivered the Child with his own hand to *Henry* first King of France, whom he had greatly assisted in keeping his Crown against an other Competitor: and therefore he might the more presume (if good-turns done to Princes could weigh down self-respects) to have found a faithful discharge of his trust. He caused also young *William* to doe his homage for the Dutchy of *Normandy* to the King, and so committed him to his Royal Faith: and going his journey, he dyed in *Asia*, *William* being then but nine years old.

He is
made
Duke of
Normandy

and com-
mitted to
the French
King.

Soon after the news of his Father's death, the Nobles of *Normandy*, by much intreaty gat him out of the French King's hand, knowing that they having him amongst them, would countenance his Counsellors, and such as were in Office. But they soon found that his Person without power did but increase their discord, and factions. For presently after his right was questioned by Competitors And first *Robert de Tresny*, an experienced Souldier, bringing

He comes
into Nor-
mandy.

His trou-
bles by
Compe-
titors.

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bringing a fair line from *Roul*, intertained, and feasted the chiefeſt men amongst them, urging to them what a wrong it was to him, that a Baſtard, and a Child ſhould be preferred before him in the Dutchy, which his Anceſtors had gotten by their Valour, and what a ſhame it was for the *Normans* to be governed by ſuch an one. And when words prevailed not, he brought it to the tryal of the Sword in a great Battel, in which (by the valour of *Roger de Beaumont*) he was defeated and himſelf and his two Brethren ſlain.

The King
of France
againſt
him..

Not long after, the King of *France*, (violating the truſt that was repoſed in him) aſſiſted in Perſon *William* Earl of *Arques*, another pretender to the Dutchy, deſcended alſo from *Roul*, and brought to his aid a mighty Army, yet Count *Gwiſford*, Duke *William's* General, by a ſtratagem training the *French* into an Ambuſh, overthrew them, and cauſed the King to return to *Paris* with great loſs and diſhonour, and forced *Arques* to ſeek relief from the Earl of *Bologne*, where yet he found little favour, few regarding men that are overthrown, and low.

New
troubles.

This ſtorm paſt, a worſe ſucceeds. There lived with Duke *William*, a young Lord of the like years, called *Guy*, deſcended alſo from *Roul*, who, coming to be ſenſible of his Intereſt, was adviſed by ſome ſtirring ſpirits to put in for the Dutchy, which (they ſaid) was his right, and but uſurped by the Baſtard. And to promote his affairs there fell out a deadly feud between two of the greateſt Lords, Vicount *Neel*, and the Earl of *Beſſin*, whoſe quarrel Duke *William* either did not, or could not

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not pacifie, whereupon this *Guy*, who was lately made Earl of *Briorn* and *Vernon*, interposed to end this discord; and by the advice of *Grimolt de Plessis*, brought it to pass that both these great men turned the point of their malice against Duke *William*, for not ending the difference, and therefore conspired with *Guy* to murder him at unawares; which also they had effected, had not a Fool, whom they suspected not, noting their preparations, got away in the night to *Valogne*, knocking, and crying at the Gates, till he was admitted to the Dukes presence (who was now about seventeen years old) whom he willed presently to flee or he would be murdered.

Treason
against
him.

The Duke seeing the Fool so affrighted, contemns not the information, but presently takes Horse, and all alone posts towards *Falaise*, his strongest place. By the way his Horse was tired, and at break a day coming to a Village called *Rie*, it fell out that a Gentleman was standing at his door, ready to ride abroad: of him the Duke enquired the next way to *Falaise*; the Gentleman knowing him humbly craved the cause of his so strange and untimely riding alone? The Duke told it him, and this Gentleman, called *Robert de Rie*, lent him a fresh Horse, and sent his two sons with him to conduct him the next way to *Falaise*.

A special
Provi-
dence.

No sooner were they got out of sight, but the Conspirators came posting after, and enquired of the same Gentleman whether he saw the Duke: He answered, that he was gone a little before such away (shewing them another path) and offering his

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He retires
to the
French
King.

his service to Count *Bessin*, rode on with them, but led them so about, that the Duke had gotten into *Falaife*, whereupon, being disappointed, they returned to their homes; so strengthening themselves that the Duke thought fit to retreat into *Roan*, and from thence to the King of *France* to crave his aid, putting him in mind what faithfull service his Father had done for him: That he was his Homager; under his Protection; and that he had no other sanctuary to flee unto for succour against his mutinous and unruly Nobility. And he was so importunate that the King aided him in Person with a Royal Army against his Competitors, whom they met in the Vale of *Dunes*, as ready to resist them, with as great a power and resolution, as the other were to assault them.

His Valour and
Victory.

The Battel was very fierce and bloody, wherein the King of *France*, and Duke *William* bestirred themselves lustily; yet had not *Ralfe de Tesson* been false to his fellows, to recover the favour of the Duke, they had hardly carried the victory. After this, diverse of the Conspirators (who had too great hearts to submit) passed over the *Alps* into *Italy*, where they grew very famous for their Valour. But here ended not the Dukes troubles. For *Guy de Burgagne* escaping by flight, fortified the Castles of *Briorne* and *Verneil*; yet in the end was forced to submit both them, and himself to the Dukes mercy, and now became his Pensioner, who before was his Competitor. This gentle act of the Dukes brought in many others to yield up themselves, and had their Signiories redelivered to them, but their Castles were demolished.

His meekness.

Shortly

Shortly after, our Duke was called into action again, by *Geffry Martel* Earl of *Anjou*, who usurped *Alanfon*, *Damfront* and *Passais*, members of the Dutchy of *Normandy*, to recover which, the Duke raised an Army, and first got *Alanfon*, where, because he was opprobriously scorned by them, and called the son of an Harlot, he used extream cruelty. Then laid he siege to *Damfront*, to relieve which, Count *Martel* came with a great Army; and our Duke to discover his strength, sent *Roger de Montgomery*, and two other Knights to deliver this message to the Earl, *That if he came to victual Damfront, he should there find him the Porter to keep him out.* Whereunto the Earl answered: *Tell your Duke that to morrow at break a day he shall have me there on a white Horse ready to give him the Combate, and I will enter Damfront, if I can: And that he may know me I will wear a shield d' Or, without any devise.*

His new troubles.

He recovers his Towns.

Roger replied, *Sir, You shall not need to take that paines: for to morrow morning you shall have the Duke in this place, mounted on a bay Horse: and that you may know him he shall wear upon the point of his Launce a Streamer of Taffaty to wipe your face.* So returning, each side prepared for the morning. But the Earl, busied in ordering his Battels, was informed by two Horsmen, that came crossing the field, that *Damfront* was for certain surrendred to the Duke, whereupon in a great rage, he presently departed with his Army: part whereof, as they passed a streight, were cut off by *Vicount Neel*, who by that service redeemed his former offence, and was restored

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stored to the Dukes favour, whom ever after he served faithfully.

His Val-
lour.

From *Damfront* the Duke with his Engines removed to *Hambrieres*, a Frontier Town of Count *Martels*: But by the way (had he not discovered it himself) he had been entrapped in an Ambush and overthrown: yet before he could clear himself he lost many brave men; wherewith he was so enraged, that pressing into the midst of his Enemies, he made at Count *Martel*, strake him down with his Sword, clave his helmet, and cut off an eare, yet he escaped out of the press, though diverse of his men were taken, and the rest routed.

A new
Conspi-
racy.

But whilst he was thus contending with outward Enemies, two of his own conspired against him, *William Guelan*, Earl of *Mortagne*, and *William* Earl of *Eu*, both pretenders to the Dutchy of *Normandy*: But the first, upon suspicion, the second upon proof of intention, were both banished. And the Earldomes of *Mortagne* he gave to *Robert*, and that of *Eu* to *Odo*, both his Brethren by the Mothers side. And all these difficulties he encountred withall before he was full twenty two years old.

He calls a
Parlament

Now the more to confirm and strengthen his Estate against future practices, he assembled a Parliament of his Bishops, Barons, and Gentlemen, causing them to take their Oath of Allegiance, and to raze their Castles. After which he married *Matilda*, the Daughter of *Baldwin* the fifth, Earl of *Flanders*, but not without some opposition. For his Uncle *Munger*, Archbishop of *Rean*, excommunicated him
for

for marrying her who was his Cousen German. To expiate which offence (though the Pope dispensed with it) he was enjoyned to build some Hospitals for blind People: and two Abbyes, one for men, and the other for women; which were built at *Caen*.

His Marriage.

These his successes made him the object of envy to the *French* Court, who incensed the King against him, to abate his power, and to find a quarrel (which borderers easily may do) to set upon him. The King who was forward enough of himself, to make his cause the fairer, pretends to correct the insolencies of the *Normans* committed in his Territories, and to relieve Count *Martel*, oppressed by the Duke. He alleadged also, that it concerned him in honour and justice, to have that Province which held of his Crown, to be Governed by a Prince of lawfull blood; wherefore he resolved utterly to extirpate Duke *William*, and to settle a legitimate Prince in that Dutchy. For which end, he raised two Armies through all his Dominions, whereof one he sent along the River *Seine*, the other into the Countrey of *Bessin*, meaning to encompass him.

He is envied by the *French* King,

who invades his Country.

The Duke hereupon divided his Forces also into two parts; and sent the one under his Brother *Odo*, Earl of *Eu*, *Walter Guiffard* Earl of *Longevil*, and others, into the Countrey of *Caux*, Himself with the other advanced toward *Eureux*, to oppose the King who was at *Mentz*. He also withdrew all the Cattel and Provisions out of the Countrey, into Cities and Fortresses. The Kings Army marching to *Mortimer*, and finding the

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The French
beaten.

Countrey to abound with all plenty, fell to making good cheer; thinking that Duke *William* with his men, was yet at *Eureux*; which the Army of *Odo* understanding, marched all night, and at break of day gave them so hot an Alarm, that he put them all into a rout, leaving their Horses and Armour to the *Normans*, who in the pursuit of fourty thousand left not a fourth part of them alive.

The King of *France* thus defeated, returned home with disgrace; and our Duke with the price of the Prisoners, recovered his Peace, and the Castle of *Thouilliers*, which had been taken from him in his minority. *Count Martel* though much discouraged with the Kings overthrow, yet made some attempts for the recovery of his Towns, but without success. Wherefore the next spring he went again to solicit the *French* King to aid him against the Duke, who (said he) is now grown insolent upon the victory he stole last year, so that there is no living by him. Besides, he suggested that the *Normans* extreemly derided the *French*, and had a base esteem of them, making their last overthrow the subject of their sport, and Rhimes, as if the King of *France*, upon such an inconsiderable loss, durst not break a dishonourable Peace.

The King
of *France*
invades
his Coun-
try again,

The King being stung with this reproach, raised a mighty Army, far greater than the former, wherein were three Dukes, and twelve Earls, and notwithstanding the solemn peace made, and so lately sworn with the Duke, he entered *Normandy* in the Harvest time, spoiling all before him along the

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the Countrey of *Bessin*. From thence he passed to *Bayeux*, and *Caen*, purposing to pass the River *Dine* at *Verruil*, and to destroy all as far as to *Roan*: Coming thither he found the Causeway long, and Bridge narrow, wherefore he caused his Vanto pass over first, and to secure his Rere, lead by the Duke of *Berry*, himself staid behind in *Caen*, till his men and Carriages were passed. Duke *William* all this while was storing his Fortresses with men and victuals: strengthening himself and *Falaise*, as much as he could: yet had no Army in the Field, but only a running Camp, ready to take all advantages; and so lets the fury of this storm spend itself, till being informed of their passage over the Bridge, and then marching all night with ten thousand men, in the morning early he set upon the Rereward, with so dreadfull a cry, and fury, that such as were upon the Causeway being affrighted, thrust forward such as were before them, hasting to get over the Bridge, which, by reason of the great press, brake, so that many were drowned; and such as were got over could not return to aid the rest. Nor the King (by reason of the marishes on both sides) could not yield any succor to his people; but stood a spectator of their slaughter; there were very many slain, and six of the Kings Earls taken Prisoners.

and is again beaten.

This shameful overthrow was so laid to heart by the King of *France*, that he died shortly after, and the Duke of *Normandy* enjoyed peace, which he employed nobly in ordering and beautifying his State; building and endowing Churches, and Monastries: He erected also a Tomb for himself and

The King of France dies.

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his wife at *Caen*; Feasting and rewarding his Nobles, and other men of worth; whereby he so engaged their hearts to him, that they were wholly his to do what he pleased.

He goes
into Eng-
land.

In the time of this calm he sailed over into *Eng-land*, pretending a visit to King *Edward*, his kinsman, who, because he had been protected, and bred in *Normandy* by Duke *Richard* the second (Grandfather to them both) gave him most Royal entertainment. Probably he came to see, and to be seen, to make way for his future designs. And not long after *Herald*, whether on purpose, or by some casualty of weather was driven into *France*, is uncertain; but he was gallantly entertained in *Normandy* by Duke *William*, and at *Roan* something was concluded betwixt them; whether to divide the Kingdom of *England* between them; or that *Herald*, being a coast-dweller, should let in Duke *William* after the decease of King *Edward* the *Confessor*, and do his best to help him to his Kingdom, is uncertain; but whatever it was, it was solemnly sworn to upon the holy Evangelists, and all the Reliques in *Roan*. And for more assurance *Herald* was betrothed to *Adeliza*, the Dukes Daughter, and his Brother *Wolnot* was left as a pledge for the performance. Sure it is, that so much was done, either by our King *Edward*, who by Will left the Crown to him, or by *Herald*, or both, as gave him ground to challenge the Crown of *England* and to pursue the getting of it. Though indeed it was not in either of their powers to prejudice our State, or to alter the course of a right succession.

As

As soon as Duke *William* heard of the death of King *Edward*, and of the Election and Coronation of *Herald*, he assembled the States of *Normandy*, and acquainted them with the right he had to *England*, intreating their utmost assistance for the recovery of it, and to avenge him on the perjur'd Usurper *Herald*; shewing them what a strong party he had in *England*, and the distractions of the people, which made his attempt very probable. He told them what Glory, Wealth, and greatness the obtaining of such a Kingdom would add to them. Yet notwithstanding all he could say, there were but few that liked of this attempt, and they which did, were such as had long followed him in the wars, and thereby had exhausted their estates, and were content to run any adventure that might promise hope of advantage. Of the rest, some thought it best to hold and defend their own Countrey, without adventuring to conquer an other, and this was the richer sort: Others were willing to contribute, but did it so sparingly that it little advanced the design; and the rest were so tyred with former Wars, and so willing to enjoy the blessing of Peace, that they were unwilling to forgoe a certain, for an uncertain good.

His preparations.

The Duke meeting with these discouragements, His Policy was much perplexed, which made him to deal more particularly with his best Friends, whom he knew to affect Honour, and that they would adventure their whole estates with him. These were *William Fitz-Auber*, Earl of *Brettevil*; *Gualter Guifford*, Earl of *Longevil*; *Roger*, Lord de *Beaumont*, &c. especially his own brothers *Odo*, Bishop of *Bayeux*,

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and Robert Earl of Mortagne. These he procured in a full Assembly to make their offers, which they did so liberally (*Fitz-Auber* promising to furnish forty ships with men and Amunition, the Bishop of *Bayeux* forty, the Bishop of *Mentz* thirty, &c.) that the rest of the assembly doubting, that if without their help the Duke should carry on his design, he would not forget their backwardness, they came off more liberally.

The Duke finding them yielding, yet not so forward as was requisite for such an undertaking, dealt with the Bishops and great men apart, getting that of them severally, which of all together he could not attain, and causing every mans contribution to be recorded, kindled such an emulation amongst them, that they which before would do nothing now strove who should do most. By his fair persuasions also he drew in most of the Princes and Nobles of *France*, to adventure their Persons, and much of their estates with him. As *Robert Fitz Harvay*, Duke of *Orleanse*, the Earls of *Britaine*, *Ponthieu*, *Bulloigne*, *Poytoun*, *Maine*, *Nevers*, *Hiesms*, *Rumarl*, Signior *de Tours*, yea and *Martel* his enemy, Earl of *Anjou*. Indeed it was strange that these great men of *France*, should adventure their lives and Fortunes to add *England* to *Normandy*, and so great a Crown to a Duke who was too great for them already. But where God hath determined alterations in Kingdoms and States all things shall concur to promote the same.

The King of *France* who should have most opposed was now a Child, and under the Tutorship of *Baldwin* Earl of *Flanders* Duke *William's* Father in Law,

Law, and therefore from thence he was sure of furtherance, rather than hinderance. And to delude the young King he promised faithfully, if he conquered *England*, to hold it of the Crown of *France*, as he did his *Dutchy of Normandy*. And to make the Pope his friend, he promised him to hold it of the *Apostolick See*: Whereupon the Pope sent him a consecrated Banner, an *Agnus Dei*, and one of Saint *Peter's* haires. The Emperour also sent him some Forces under the command of one of the Princes of the Empire. And being thus encouraged and furnished, within eight months he was ready with a powerful Army, at Saint *Valery* in *Normandy*, to transport himself into *England* in 896 Ships.

His subtilty.

But now let us see how affairs stood in *England*: King *Edward* the *Confessor*, being himself without issue, had in his lifetime sent into *Hungary* for his Nephew *Edward*, called the *Outlaw*, the Son of *Edmund Ironside*, intending to make him his Successour to the Crown; but he dying soon after his arrival in *England*, King *Edward* then gave his Son *Edgar* the name of *Etheling*, or *Prince Edgar*, meaning to design him for his successour; but was prevented by death before he had fully established him; and *Edgar Etheling*, though he had right, yet being young, and a stranger here, and so wanting power to make good his right, *Herald*, the Son of Earl *Godwin*, stept into the Throne, and though hereby (violating of holy Rights) he offended the Clergy, yet not any, either of the Clergy, or Laity durst oppose him; as being the most Martiall man in the Kingdom, and such an one as the

The affairs in *England*.

Herald made King, An. 1066.

state

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State of the Realm then stood in need of. And besides his own worth he had the assistance of *Edwin*, and *Marchar*, the two great Earls of *Yorkshire*, and *Chester*.

His prudence and policy.

Indeed King *Edward* had appointed the Crown sometimes to *William* Duke of *Normandy*, sometimes to *Edgar Etheling*, and sometimes to this *Herald*, who was now Crowned by *Aldred*, Archbishop of *Tork*: And being possessed of the Throne, he was able to make good his Title: yet to make Prince *Edgar* some part of amends he created him Earl of *Oxford*. And *Herald* being thus settled, carried himself with great valour, and Justice for the time he enjoyed it, which was but nine months. He made all provisions for defence that a politick and active Prince could do.

His opposition and success.

The first man that began to disturb his new Government was his younger Brother *Touftaine*, who in King *Edward's* Reign being made Governour of *Northumberland*, for his pride and barbarous cruelty, was banished the Kingdom; and now by reason of his former hatred against his Brother, was easily set on by the Duke of *Normandy*, and *Baldwin* Earl of *Flanders*, (who had married his two Daughters to Duke *William*, and *Touftaine*,) to assail *Herald*. He first assailed the Isle of *Wight*, and then set upon the coast of *Kent*, from whence he was chased by *Herald*, and forced to withdraw into the North, where seeking to land, he was thence repulsed by the Earls *Marchar*, and *Edwin*, (whose Sister *Herald* had married.) Then he craved aid of the *Scots*, and afterwards of *Herald Harfager*, King of *Norweg*, who was

was exercising Piracy about the *Orchades*; with him he prevailed, and so uniting their Forces, they landed about *Tinmouth*, and from thence marched into the heart of the Kingdom. But near *Stamford* King *Herald* of *England* met them with a strong Army, and after a long and cruel fight, ended the day with victory, and the death both of *Touftaine*, and the King of *Norway*. His victory.

No sooner was this Battel over, but with his wearied and broken Forces he was called to a more fatal business in the South. For now Duke *William* of *Normandy* pretending a right to the *English* Crown, by the Testament of the late King *Edward* his kinsman, upon the advantage of King *Herald's* being so far off with his Army, landed at *Pemsey*, near to *Hastings* in *Sussex*; and *Herald* being informed of it, gathering together his broken Forces, increasing them as much as he could by the way, with all possible speed he hasted to give the Duke Battel. Duke William comes into England.

Duke *William* as soon as he had landed his men, sent his ships away, that so they might think of nothing but either Victory or Death. Then going himself on land his foot slipt, and he fell down, which some of his company took for an ill signe; No (said he) *I have by this taken possession of this Land*. Many attempts were made to compound the difference between *Herald*, and *William*, but *Herald* would hearken to none, presuming of success, and judging it a disgrace to capitulate for that which was his own. And when one of his Brothers called *Gyrth* intreated him to consider what a fearful thing it was to break an Oath, His policy.

D

which

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which he had so solemnly sworn. *Herald* judged, that nothing which he had done being a private man could be of force to him, being now a Prince.

The Battel between him and *Herald*.

Anno Christi, 1066. October the fourteenth (being also *Herald's* Birthday) and his Soldiers (thinking to honour him thereby) having spent the night in revelling and drinking (whereas the Dukes men spent it in quietness and devotion) they joyned Battel, the *Kentish* men being placed in the Front (as by antient custom was their due) and King *Herald* with his *Londoners*, leading the main Battel: where though the number of their Armies was not much unequal (each of them having above sixty thousand men) yet was there great odds in the expertness of the Souldiers, and more in their weapons. For the Duke had with him all the flower of *France*, and *Flanders*, whereas King *Herald* had lost his best men in the late fight, and for weapons, the *Normans* had long Bowes, which then were not in use among the *English*, it's no marvel then though the *Normans* got the Victory. And though *Herald* lost his life, yet he lost not his credit: and the *English* shewed no less valour though they were Conquered, than the other did in Conquering. For King *Herald* (like an expert General) had ordered his men in so firme a Body, that no power of the *Normans* could disorder their ranks, till Duke *William* used this Stratagem: He made his men to retire, and to counterfeit flight, by which meanes he drew the *English* on upon an hollow ground covered over with earth, wherein many of them fell and perished, as also into an Ambush

Their mutual valour.

Ambush of his Horsemen, which unexpectedly fell upon them and cut them in peices,

Indeed Duke *William* fought that day so valiantly that he had three Horses slain under him: But King *Herald* shewed no less valour in killing many of the *Normans* with his own hands. In-
somuch as the fight continued doubtfull for a long time, till at last King *Herald* being struck into the
braines with an Arrow, fell down dead, upon whose fall a base *Norman*, cut off one of his thighs, Herald slain.
for which Duke *William* was so offended, that he disarmed the Souldier, and cashier'd him. *Thyra* King *Herald's* Mother, proffered a great some of money for his Body, which the Duke nobly refused and gave it her freely, who buried it in *Waltham* Abby. And no marvel if the *English* had such ill success. For the People being secure from their former enemies the *Danes* (which peace had continued now about the space of fifty years) had discontinued the use of Armes, and were generally debauched with Luxury and idleness. Englands sins. The Clergy was grown licentious, and well content with little Learning. The Nobility given to Gluttony, Venery, and oppression: the common sort to drunkenness and all disorder.

Duke *William*, as his Valour won him the Victory, so his Victory won him a Crown; and suddenly of an old Duke he became a young King. Wherefore having returned publick thanks to God for his good success in the place, which he called *Battel field*, near *Hastings* in *Surrey*, he led his Army towards *London*, yet not the direct way for fear of an other encounter, but thorow *Kent*,

The Life and Death of¹⁷

His Pro-
gress.

The Eng-
lish sub-
mit to
him.

A stout
Abbot.

He comes
to London;
Is receiv-
ed with
Joy.
His Coro-
nation.

Sussex, Surry, Hampshire, and Barkshire, and so coming to Wallingford, he there crossed the Thames, and passed through the Counties of Oxford, Bucks, and Hertford: And whilst he staid at Barkamsted, Aldred Archbishop of York, Woolstan Bishop of Worcester, Walter Bishop of Hereford, with the Earls Edwin, and Morchar, the greatest men in the Kingdome, yea and Edgar Etheling himself, came and yielded their Allegiance to him, the Pope having cursed all such as would not accept of him.

From hence as *William* passed towards *London*, he found his way stopt up with multitudes of great Trees, which by *Frederick* Abbot of *Saint Albans*, a man of Noble blood, were caused to be felled to secure his Monastery from being spoiled by the *Normans*; whereat *William* both wondering and fretting, sent for the Abbot under assurance of his safe return, and asked him why he did it? *Frederick* stoutly replied: *I have done the Duty both of my Birth and Profession, and if others of my rank had done the like (as they might, and ought to have done) it had not been in thy power to have pierced the Land so far.*

From hence *William* marched to *London*, where the Gates were set open, and the Bishops, Lords, and People entertained him with great signes of joy, though with small gladness; and though he had not their hearts, yet he had their knees; for in most humble manner they accepted of him for their Sovereign, and upon *Christ-mass* day after, he was Crowned at *Westminster* by *Aldred*, Archbishop of *York*: For that *Stigand*, Archbishop of *Canterbury*

bury, was not held Canonically invested in his See.

Here, according to the accustomed form, the Bishops and Nobles took their oaths to be his true and faithful subjects: and he (being required by the Archbishop of *York*) takes his Oath before the Altar of Saint *Peter*, to defend the Right of the Church, to establish good Laws, and to see Justice uprightly and impartially administered as became a good King. Nor did he ever claim any power by Conquest, but as a Regular Prince, submitted himself to the orders and customs of the Kingdom, desiring rather to hold the Scepter by his Testamentary Title than to claim it by the sword. So that though the name of *Conquerour*, by the flattery of the times, was given to him; yet he shewed by all the course of his Government that he assumed it not.

No Con-
querour.

Being thus settled, he chose for his Counsel such men as he knew to be of greatest Wisdom, and experience; then he applied his thoughts to secure his new-gotten Empire. For which end he fortified such places as lay open to danger; placed strong Garrisons upon the Coasts; and provided Ships to ride in those Harbors which lay most open to Invasions. He marched also towards *Dover*, (the Lock and Key of the Kingdom) to secure that place, and to overaw that *Kentish*, a most strong and populous Province.

His Pru-
dence.

But when *Stigand*, the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and *Eglesigne*, the Abbot of Saint *Austins* (who were the cheifest Lords and Governours of *Kent*) heard of it, they assembled the Commons at *Canter-*

The *Kentish* men's
Policy.

The Life and Death of

bury, laying before them the dangers of their Province, the miseries of their Neighbours, the Pride of the *Normans*, and the wrongs of the Church. All which (say they) are too apparent. The English till now were ever free, and the name of Bondmen not heard among them. But now servitude attends us, if we yield to the pride of this insulting enemy; to withstand which, we are ready to adventure our lives with you. This resolution drew the people willingly to joyn with them, who appointed to meet at a Bay at *Swanscomb*, within two miles of *Gravesend*.

Accordingly there they met at the day, and kept themselves secret in the woods, waiting the coming of the *Conquerour*, agreeing to carry before them great branches of Trees, whereby they might conceal themselves, and if need were, impede the march of the *Normans*. Which device daunted King *William* at his approach, who judging himself secure, was thus before he was aware, suddenly beset on every side with enemies. For now the *Kentish* men, having environed his Army round, threw down their Boughs, and with bent Bowes prepared for Battel: So that he which even now thought himself secure of the Kingdom, began to despair of his Life, in which amazement, *Stigard*, and *Eglefine* presented themselves before him, and said,

Most Noble Duke, behold here the Commons of Kent are come forth to meet and receive you as their Sovereigne, requiring your Peace, and their own Freedom, and the enjoyment of their ancient Lawes. If these be denied they are resolved to submit their
tryall

try all to a Battel, fully purposing rather to dye than lose their Laws, and Liberties, and so to live servilely in Bondage, which Name, and Nature is, and ever shall be strange unto us, and not to be endured.

William being brought into this strait, and loath to hazard all upon so nice a point, more warily than willingly granted their desires, and Pledges being given on both sides for performance, Kent yielded to him her Earldom, and Dover her Castle.

When King William had established all things for Englands security, he committed the Government of it to Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, his brother by the Mothers side, and to his Cousin *Fitz-Auber, whom he made Earl of Hereford, and in the Lent following sailed into Normandy, taking with him all the chief men of England, who were likeliest to make a party against him in his absence. As Edgar Etheling, Stigand Archbishop of Canterbury, the two great Earls Edwin, and Morchar, Frederick Abbot of Saint Albanes, Agelnothus Abbot of Glaftenbury, Walteof Earl of Northumberland; Roger Earl of Hertford, Rainulph Earl of Cambridge, Gospatrick Earl of Cumberland, &c. And in his absence, which was all the Summer, nothing was here attempted against him, save that Edrick, surnamed the Forester in the County of Hereford, calling in the Welch to his assistance, foraged the remoter borders of that County. The rest of the Kingdom was quiet, expecting what would become of this new World, wherein as yet they found no great alteration, their Laws and Liberties remaining the same they were,

* or Fitz-Osborne.
King William goes into Normandy.

The Life and Death of

were, and they might hope that by this accession of a new Province, *England* would have her Dominion enlarged abroad, and her profit not impaired at home.

Returns
into Eng-
land.

King *William* having disposed his affairs in *Nor-mandy*, towards Winter returned into *England*, where he had three sorts of men to satisfy, 1. Such as had adventured their Lives and estates with him, 2. Those of his own Countrey, whose merits, and propinquity looked for recompence, whereof the number was very great, 3. The people of *England*, by whom he must now subsist, wherein he had more to doe than in his Battel at *Hastings*, seeing that all rewards with money must be raised out of the stock of the Kingdom, which must needs be distastfull to the State in general; and if he preferred any of his to dignities by displacing others, it must needs bring very feeling grievances to the persons displaced. But he thrust no great men out of their room, but such as put themselves out by revolting after they had given their Fealty to him. So that it seems he contented himself, and his for the present, only with what he found ready, filling up their places who were slain in the Battel, or fled away, as many were with *Herald's* Sons, out of the Kingdom.

His Pru-
dence,
and Poli-
cy.

Such of desert as he could not presently prefer, he sent abroad into the Abbeyes, there to live till places fell void for them, whereof twenty four he sent to the Abbey of *Ely*, by which policy he not only lessened his Suitors at Court, and eased the eye sore of the *English*, but had a watch over the Clergy, who were then of the greatest power in
the

the Kingdom, and might prevail much with the people.

But the *English* Nobility thinking that their splendor was darkened by the interposition of so many strangers, and fearing that yet it would be further eclipsed, Conspired together, and fled, some into *Scotland*, and others into *Denmark*, to try if by forraign aid they could recover themselves. Amongst whom, *Edgar Etheling*, with his Mother and two Sisters, intending for *Hungary*, where he was born, was driven into *Scotland*, where he was kindly entertained by * *Malcolin* the third, whose former sufferings in exile had taught him to pity others in the like distress: and whom also it concerned to look to his own, now his neighbours House was on fire. This induced him also to make a League with *Edgar*, and to tie it the stronger, he took to wife *Margret*, the sister of *Edgar* (a very virtuous Lady) by whom the blood of our antient Kings was preserved and conjoyned with the *Normans* in King *Henry*, the second, and so became *English* again.

The *Eng-
lish* rebel.

* or *Mal-
colin*.

Edgar being thus in *Scotland*, there repared to him the Earls *Edwin*, and *Morchar*, *Hereward*, *Gospatrice*, *Siward* and others, and shortly after *Stigand* and *Aldrid* the two Archbishops: with diverse of the Clergy, who in that third year of King *William's* Reign, raised great commotions in the North, and sought most eagerly to recover their lost Country. But it now proved too late, the King having settled the Government of the Kingdom, so that instead of prevailing they gave advantage to the Conquerour to make him-

E

self

The Life and Death of

self more than he was. For all oppositions made by Subjects against their Sovereigns, do, if they succeed not, tend much to their advancement; and nothing gave deeper rooting to the Normans here, then the petty revolts made by scattered Troops in several places, begun without Order, and followed without resolution.

He built
4 Castles.

King *William*, foreseeing new stirs from *Scotland*, sent to *Malcolme* to deliver up to him his enemy *Etheling*, which if he refused he threatned him with Wars. *Malcolme* returned answer: That it was unjust and wicked, especially in a Prince, to betray to his enemy, one that came to his Court for protection, especially being now so nearly allied to him. *William*, thus disappointed, feared a dangerous Rebellion in his Kingdom, to prevent which he built four strong Castles. One at *Hastings*: A second at *Lincoln*: A third at *Nottingham*: And a fourth at *Tork*, in all which he placed strong Garrisons. And disarming the *English*, he commanded every Householder to put out both fire and candle at eight a clock at night, at which hour he appointed that in every Town a Bell should be rung, called by the *French* *Coversew*, or *Cover fire*, to prevent nightly tumults which otherwise might arise. Then did he give the Earldom, and all the Lands that *Edwin* held in *Tork-shire*, to *Allain* Earl of *Britaine*. The Archbishoprick of *Conterbury*, he conferred on *Lankfranc* Abbot of *Caen*. That of *Tork* upon *Thomas* his Chaplaine, and all the rest of the *English*, which were out in Rebellion, had their places supplied by the *Normans*.

Shortly

Shortly after, *Goodwin*, and *Edmund* the sons of the late King *Herald*, coming with some Forces out of *Ireland*, landed in *Summerfetshire*, and fought with *Adnothus*, one of King *William's* Captains, whom they slew with many others, and taking great booties in *Cornwall* and *Devonshire*, returned back into *Ireland*.

Troubles
out of Ire-
land.

Exeter also thought to shake off the *Norman* yolk. And *Northumberland*, to recover their former liberties took Armes, against whom the King sent *Robert Cumin*, and himself went against *Exeter* and besieged it, and at last the Citizens opened their Gates and submitted to his mercy, the Ring-leaders escaping into *Flanders*. But in the North, *Cumin* lying secure in *Durham*, was suddenly in the night surpris'd by *Edgar Etheling*, and his followers, who slew *Cumin*, and all his *Normans* being about seven hundred, one onely escaping to carry the ill newes to King *William*.

In the
West and
North.

During these stirs in *England* the *English* fugitives in *Denmark* so far prevailed with King *Swaine*, that he sent a strong Navy of three hundred ships, well fraught with Souldiers, under his two Sons *Harold*, and *Canute*, who arriving in *Humber*, marched to *York*, to whom also *Edgar*, and his associats out of *Scotland*, joyned themselves. At whose approach the Citizens were so terrified that they set fire on the suburbs, and the flame by an high wind, was driven over the wall, whereby a great part of the City was consumed, together with the Cathedral Church and a famous Library of great worth, and the Garrison of *Normans* consisting of 3000. were all slain.

England
invaded
by the
Danes and
Scots.
Tork
burnt.

The Life and Death of

King
William
goes a-
gainst
them.

This so incensed King *William*, that speedily raising an Army, he entered *Northumberland*, piti-fully wasted by the *Danes*, and made spoil of all, and with a good summe of money purchased the departure of the *Danes*. These devastations in sundry Counties made such a Dearth, that the People were forced to eat Horses, Dogs, Cats, Rats, &c. and between *York* and *Durham*, for the space of sixty miles, for nine years together, there was such an utter desolation, that neither House was left standing, nor field tilled.

Woful de-
vastati-
ons.

The King
Conquers.

After this great defeat most of the Lords came in upon the publick Faith, and were conducted to *Bark-hansted*, by the Abbot *Frederick*, where upon their submission, and Oath of Allegiance retaken, they were restored to his favour, and to give them satis-faction, King *William*, before the Archbishop *Lank-franc*, and the Lords, again sware to observe the an-tient Laws of the Realm, established by his Noble Predecessors, especialy those of Saint *Edward*. Yet not long after these Lords upon new discontents brake out again. But Earl *Edwin*, making towards *Scotland*, was murdered by the way by his own men. The Lords *Morcar* and *Hereward*, betook themselves to the Isle of *Ely*, intending to secure themselves there for that Winter; to whom also re-paired Earl *Syward* and the Bishop of *Durham* out of *Scotland*. But the King who was no time giver, presently besieged them with flat Boats on the East, and made a Bridge two miles long on the West, and so brought his men upon them, who seeing themselves surpris'd, yielded to the Kings mercy: Only *Hereward* desperately marched with his People

New dis-
contents.

Ely taken.

through

through the Fens, and fled into *Scotland*, therest were sent to diverse Prisons where they dyed, or remained during the Kings life.

Those Lords that continued Loyal upon the late submission, were imployed and preferred by the King. As *Edric*, the *Forrester*. And *Gospatrice* was made Earl of *Northumberland*, and sent against King *Malcolme*, who wasted the Countries of *Tis-dale*, *Cleaveland*, and *Cumberland*. *Waltheoff*, the Son of Earl *Syward*, he married to his Neece *Judith*, a very valiant man: shewing a Noble nature to love vertue, even in his enemies. And now King *William*, finding *Scotland*, to be a place of retreat for all his discontented Subjects, and where his Competitor *Edgar* lived, he entered the Kingdom with a great Army, which encountring more with wants than Forces, and both Kings considering the uncertain events of War, upon fair overtures concluded a Peace, agreeing upon the bounds of each Kingdom; and Delinquents with their partakers were generally pardoned. And shortly after *Edgar Etheling*, came in volutarily, and was restored to the Kings favour, who allowed him a liberal maintenance, which held him ever after quiet.

King W.
William's cle-
mency.

Peace
with
Scotland.

King *William* being now gone into *Normandy*, there was amost dangerous Conspiracy begun against him by *Ralph de Waber* Earl of *Suffolk* and *Norfolk*; *Roger Fitz Aubre*, (or *Osburne*) Earl of *Hereford*; *Waltheoff*, Earl of *Northumberland*, with *Eustace*, Earl of *Bulloine* (suborned, as it was thought, by the King of *France*, there unto). These Lords conspired to keep *William* in *Normandy*, and to dispossess

A new
Conspi-
racy.

The Life and Death of

him of his Kingdom; for which end they agreed to joyn theirs with the *Danish* Forces, whom they intended to call in. This was a dangerous Combination, the King being in *Normandy* besieging the Castle of *Dole*, in *Britaine*, belonging unto *Ralph Warher*, and defended against him by the King of *France*, and at such a time when all his Neighbor Princes were jealous of him, and ill affected to him. The King of *Scotland*, and the Princes of *Wales*, ready to joyn with them at home. *Swaine* King of *Denmark*, with a Navy of two hundred sail ready to invade *England*; to which *Drone*, King of *Ireland*, joyned sixty five ships. And this did more distract and incense him, because most of these great Lords were either his kinsmen or nearly allied to him.

Discover-
ed.

This grand Conspiracy was discovered by *Waltheoff* to Archbishop *Lankfranc*, who perswaded the Earl to go to the King and to inform him of the greatness of his danger. Yet notwithstanding this discoverie, *Roger*, and *Ralph*, proceed in their intentions, and raise Forces. But by the diligence of *Odo*, Bishop of *Baiaux*, the Kings Brother, the Bishop of *Worcester*, and the Abbot of *Evesham*, they were so prevented that they could never unite their Forces: Whereupon *Ralph* fled into *France*; *Roger* was taken and imprisoned; *Waltheoff* was beheaded; and so this flame was extinct.

Preven-
ted.

His son
Robert
rebels.

The greatest and last insurrection was in *Normandy*, by King *William's* own Son *Robert*, who by the instigation, and assistance of *Philip* King of *France*, (envying *Williams* greatness) entered
Normandy,

William the Conquerour.

31

Normandy, and claimed it as his own right. His Father indeed had promised him it long before, but *Robert* impatient of delays, endeavored by a strong hand to wrest it from his Father. King *William* hearing hereof passed with a strong Army over into *Normandy*, where in a Battel meeting with his Son, hand to hand, he was by him unhorsed, and hurt in the arm. But his Son perceiving by his voice that it was his Father, suddenly leaped off his Horse, took him up in his armes, fell down at his feet, and humbly intreated his pardon, which his Father easily granted, embraced his Son, and ever after they lived in mutual love. Is reconciled to his Father.

After this King *William* sent this his Son *Robert*, with an Army against *Malcolm* King of *Scots*, who had invaded *Northumberland*, who at the coming of Duke *Robert*, retired. At which time Duke *Robert* began to found a Castle upon the River of *Tine*, whereof the Town of *Newcastle* did take its beginning, and Name, which formerly was called *Moncafter*. These frequent Wars put the State to an infinite charge, the King entertaining all this while, besides *Normans*, very many *French*. Finding the *English* (in respect of many Great Families that were allied to the *Danes*) rather to incline to that Nation than to the *Normans*. New-Castle built.

In the fifteenth year of his Reign he subdued *Wales*, and brought the King thereof to do him Homage. And presently after quarrels arose between King *William*, and the King of *France*. The King of *France* invades *Normandy*, and takes the City of *Vernon*. The King of *England* invades Quarrels with France.

The Life and Death of

invades *France*, and subdued the Country of *Xantoigue*, and *Poissou*, and so returned to *Roan*. Then did the King of *France* summon our King to do him Homage for *England*, which he refused, saying he held it of none but God, and his sword: But for the Dutchy of *Normandy*, he offered him Homage, which yet would not satisfie the King of *France*. Whereupon he made a new invasion but with more loss than profit. In the end they concluded a crazy Peace, which held only till King *William* had recovered a sickness, whereinto (through his travel, age, and corpulency) he was faine; which occasioned the young and lusty King of *France* jeeringly to say, *that he lay in of his great belly in Roan*. This so irritated King *William* that so soon as he was recovered, he gathered a very strong Army with which he entered *France* in the chiefest time of their Fruits, spoiling all before him till he came to *Paris*, where the King of *France* then was, to whom he sent to shew him of his upsting. From thence he marched to *Mentz*, which he wholly sackt, where he caught the occasion of his Death, by the strain of his Horse amongst the breaches: from whence he was conveyghed sick to *Roan*.

The French
King jeers
him.

His re-
veng.

His sick-
ness.

The Tow-
er built.

Anno Christi, 1078. King *William*, before his going into *Normandy*, the more to assure himself, and his successors of the *English* Crown, on the East side of *London*, built a strongly fenced Castle or Magazine for his Warlike Amunition, which he entrenched with a long and deep Ditch, ████████ now called the *Tower of London*: the Surveyor of which worke, was *Gundolphus*, Bishop of *Rocheſter*
the

the mortar of it being tempered with the blood of Beasts. Then to fill his Coffers he imposed great Subsidies upon the Land, causing an exact survey to be taken of the whole kingdom; yea, and of every particular part and commodity thereof, so that there was not a Hide of Land, Lake, Water or Wast, but he knew the value, the Owners, and Possessors, together with the Rents, and profits thereof. As also of all Cities, Towns, Villages, Monasteries, and Religious Houses. Causing all the People in *England* to be numbered, their Names to be taken, with notice what every one might dispend by the year, their substance, money, and Bondmen were recorded. How many yoke of Oxen and plough-lands were in the Realm: and what services they owed that held of him in Fee: All which was certified by Oaths of the Commissioners.

England surveyed

This done, he caused six shillings to be paid him for every Hide of Land. The Book that contained this Survey, was called the *Role of Winchester*, as being kept there at first. But ever since it hath been called *Doomsday Book*, because of the General and inevitable censure thereof; and since it hath been kept in the Kings Exchequer at *Westminster*, This grievous exaction made the *English* miserably groan under their present State, whereby the King and his *Normans* were daily more hated: and he on the contrary loved them so little that he sought by all means to bring the *English* Name, and Nation to ruine. He gave also further offence both to God and Man, by depopulating the fruitful Country, lying South from *Salisbury* to the Sea: pulling down Towns, and Villages, with thirty six Parish Churches,

Doomsday Book.

New For-
rest made.

Remark-
able Judg-
ments.

The Laws
in French

Churches, and so laid open all the Country for thirty miles space, for wild beasts for his own Game in Hunting: which place hath ever since been called the *New Forrest*. He also imposed such severe punishments upon such as offended in hunting his Game that he was called the *Father of wild Beasts*. But God's severe Judgment pursued him for his wickedness; for in this Forrest, *Richard* his second Son, was gored by a Deer, whereof he dyed. *Rufus*, an other of his Sons, being taken for a Deer, was shot thorow with an Arrow and slain. *Henry*, his Grandson by *Robert Curtoise* his Eldest Son, eagerly pursuing a Deer was by a bough struck into the jawes, and left hanging till he died.

Although King *William* at his Coronation had taken an oath to observe the Laws of King *Edward*, then in use: which oath he renewed at *Barkhamsted*, yet did he abrogate many of them, and brought in the *Norman Laws*, written in *French*, commanding that all Causes should be pleaded, and all matters of Form dispatched in *French*; either on purpose to entrap men through ignorance of the Language, or else to make the *Normans* Language predominant in his Kingdom, which yet he could never effect, there being not so much as any footsteps of that Language remaining in the *English* Tongue. Forms of Judgment by Fire, and Water, called *Ordeal*, formerly much used, were now antiquated and shortly after quite abolished by the Pope, as favouring too much of Paganism. That of Combat continued longer, but was of no ordinary use. Actions both Criminal, and Real, began now wholly to be judged

ed by the verdict of twelve men, called by the name of *Enquest*. And whereas the Bishops formerly dealt in Secular Causes, and shared with the King in many Mults imposed on Delinquents, now the King confined all the Clergy within the compass of their own Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, to meddle only in matters concerning mens Souls. He set up Sheriffs in every Shire, and Justices of Peace to punish Malefactors. And lastly, he ordained his Councel of State his Chancery, his Exchequer, and his Courts of Justice, which alwayes removed with his Court. These places he furnished with Officers, and assigned four Terms in the year for determining controversies amongst the People, commonly held at *Westminster*.

Bishops
Power abated.

As for his Provisionary Revenues, his Tenants who held Lands of the Crown, paid him no money but only Corn, and Victuals; and a just note of the quality, and quantity of everyman's ratement was taken through all the Shires of the Kingdom, and leavied constantly for the maintenance of the Kings House. One Law he made which was extreamly distastfull to the Gentry. That whereas they might at their pleasure, hunt & take Deer which they found abroad in the woods, now it was ordained that upon penalty of putting out their eyes, none should presume to take or kill any of them, the King preserving them for his own Game.

His household Provision.

In the first year of his Reign he granted to the City of *London*, their first Charter and Liberties in as large a manner as they enjoyed them under King *Edward the Confessor*; which he did at the request of *William a Norman*, Bishop of *London*; in grate-

The Charter of *London* renewed.

The Life and Death of

ful remembrance whereof, the Lord Major and Aldermen upon their solemn days of their resort to *Pauls*, do still walk to the Grave-stone where this Bishop lies interred. Also this King was the first that brought the *Jewes* into *England*. He also enacted a Law that whosoever forced a woman should lose his Genitals. In his time the use of long Bows came first into *England*, which, as they were the weapons wherewith under this King *France* Conquered *England*, so they were the weapons with which *England* under succeeding Kings conquered *France*. This King also appointed a Constable at *Dover* Castle, and a Lord Warden of the Cinque-Ports. In short, He ordained such good Laws, and had them so well executed, that a Girle might carry a bag of money all the Country over without danger of being rob'd. And in his time the setting of Seals to Bonds and writings was first used.

Bishops
Sees
Changed.

In King *William's* time *Stigand* Archbishop of *Canterbury*, was removed from his See and kept Prisoner during his Life in the Castle of *Winchester*; and *Lanfranc*, an *Italian*, succeeded him; who in a Synod at *London*, removed the Bishops Sees from small Towns to Cities as from *Sillway* to *Chichester*; from *Kyrton* to *Exeter*; from *Wells* to *Bath*; from *Sherborne* to *Salisbury*; from *Dorchester* to *Lincolne*; and from *Lichfield* to *Chester*; and from thence again to *Coventry*.

His works
of Piety.

He founded the Abbey of *Battel* in *Suffex*, where he overcame *Herald*. The Abbey of *Selby* in *Yorkshire*; And a third near *London*, called *Saint Savours*. He founded also the Priory of *Saint Nicholas* at *Exeter*

Exeter, and gave great Priviledges to Saint *Martins* *Le Grand* in *London*. In *Normandy* he founded an *Abby* at *Caen*: and he gave to the Church of Saint *Stephens* there, two *Manners* in *Dorsetshire*; one in *Devonshire*; an other in *Essex*; much Land in *Barkshire*; some in *Norfolk*; an house in *Woodstreet London*, with many *Avowfions* of Churches.

In his time Saint *Pauls* Church being burnt down, *Maurice* Bishop of *London*, began this which is now standing; A work so admirable and stupendious that many thought it would never have been finished. Towards the building of the East end of it, the King gave the choice Stones of his Castle in the West end of the City; in which place afterwards was founded a Monastery of *Black Friars*. And after the death of *Maurice*, *Richard*, his next successor, gave all the Rents of his Bishoprick towards the building of this Church; yet the finishing of it was left to his successors. About the same time *William*, Bishop of *Durham*; founded *University Colledge* in *Oxford*.

In the twentieth year of his Reign, their happened so great a fire in *London*, that from the West Gate to the East Gate it consumed all the Houses and Churches, at which time (as was said before) *Pauls* Church was burnt down. Burning Feavers also consumed the People. Murraims devoured an infinite number of Cattel; great Rains and Floods destroyed the Fruits of the Earth, whence ensued a great Famine; and by them the Hills were so softened, and undermined, that some of them fell, and overwhelmed the Neighbouring Villages. Tame

Pauls
Church
burnt.
and re-
edified.

Great
Judg-
ments.

The Life and Death of

Fowls, as Hens, Geese, Peacocks, &c. fled into the Woods, and Forests, and turned wild.

Odo, the Kings Brother, Bishop of *Bayeux*, hoping to obtain the Popedom had heaped up vast Treasures for the purchasing of it. But as he was about to begin his journey, he was seized upon by the King, and imprisoned, and his House being searched, there were found such heaps of Gold as caused admiration in all that saw it, and many of his Bags were drawn out of Rivers, where they were laid, full of Gold beaten to Powder.

He despoiles
the Monasteries.

King *William* wanting money seized upon the Plate, Jewels, and Treasure within all the Monasteries in *England*. Pretending, that the Rebels had conveyed their Riches into these Religious Houses (as into Sanctuaries, and priviledged places) to defraud him thereof. He made also all Bishopricks and Abbeys that held Baronies (alwayes free before) to contribute to his Wars, and other occasions.

His last
Will.

Wilest King *William* sick at *Roan*, occasioned partly by heat and partly by the leap of his Horse which brake the inward Rim of his Belly: And perceiving his approaching Death, he made his Will, wherein he commanded that all his Treasure should be distributed to Churches, Ministers, and the Poor; appointing to each their severall portions. His Dukedom of *Normandy*, he left to his eldest Son *Robert*, to whom he had formerly given it. His Kingdom of *England* he left to his second Son *William*. And *Henry* his youngest Son, surnamed *Beauclark*, hearing himself neglected by his Father, with tears said, And what Father do you give me? the King answered;

answered, *Five thousand pounds of Silver out of my Treasury.* But (replied he) what shall I do with the Treasure if I want an Habitation? His Father answered, *Be patient my son, and comfort thyself in God, suffer quietly thy Elder Brothers to go before thee. Robert shall have Normandy, and William England, but thou in time shalt have intirely all the honour that I have gotten, and shalt excell thy Brethren in Riches and Power.*

His Son *William* he sent away into *England*, and by him Letters to Archbishop *Lanfranc*. His Prisoners he commanded to be set at liberty; and then dyed *September* the ninth in the fifty sixth year of his Dutchy, the twenty first of his Kingdom, and the sixty fourth of his age, *Anno Christi. 1087.*

No sooner had this late Glorious-Princes Soul left his Body, but his Dead Corps was presently abandoned by his chiefeft Followers, who posted away every one to defend his own; whilst his menial Servants despoiled him of his Armor, Vessels, Apparel, and all princely furniture, leaving his Dead Body naked upon the floor, where it lay stinking till one *Harluins*, a poor Country Knight, at his own cost undertook to cary it to *Caen*, unto Saint *Stevens* Church formerly founded by this King.

His Death.

At his entrance into *Caen*, the Monks came forth to meet him; But at the very instant, a sudden fire happening, presently invaded a great part of the City, whereupon his Hearse was forsaken by all, every one applying himself to help to quench the fire. After which being carried to Church and the Stone Coffin set ready, which was to receive the Body, one *Ascelinus Fitz-Arthur*, stood up and forbad.

Vanity of Vanties.

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had the burial, saying, *This very place was the floor of my Fathers House, which this dead Duke violently took from him: and here upon part of my Inheritance founded this Church; This ground therefore I challenge, and in Gods behalf, forbid that the Body of my Despoiler be covered in my Earth, neither shall it be interred within the precincts of my right.* Whereupon they were forced to compound with him for a present sum of money, and for one hundred pound weight of Silver afterwards to be paid, and so the Exequies went forward. But when the Corps came to be laid into the Tomb, it proved too little, and the belly being pressed, and not bowelled, brake, and with an intollerable stink, so offended the by-standers, that with great amazement, they all hastened away, and the poor Monks were left to shuffle up the Burial, who also were glad when they gat to their Cells.

His Character.

He was of an indifferent stature, of a comly person, of a good presence, till his corpulency increasing with age, made him unweildy; of so strong a constitution that he was never sick, till a litle before his Death. His strength such that few men could draw his Bow; Of wit ready, and very Politick; In Speech Eloquent; Resolute in attempts; In hazards valiant; A great Souldier, and very successful; His Charters of an other tenour, and very brief; as may appear by one that run thus.

*I William, the third year of my Reign,
Give to thee Norman Hunter, to me that art both
leeze and Deer,*

The

*The Hop and the Hopton, and all the Bounds up
and down,
Under Earth to Hell, above the Earth to Heaven;
From me and mine, to thee and thine,
As good, and as faire, as ever they mine wear.
To witness that this is sooth, I bite the whitewax
with my Tooth.
Before Jugg, Maud, and Marjery, and my young-
est Son Henry.
For a Bow, and a broad Arrow, when I come to
hunt upon Yarrow.*

His only wife was *Mathilda*, or *Maud*, Daugh- His Wife.
ter to *Baldwin* the fifth, surnamed the *Gentle*, Earl
of *Flanders*, by whom he had,

Robert surnamed *Curtois*, or *Short Thighs*, who
succeeded his Father in the Dutchy of *Normandy*
whereof he was dispossessed by his Brother *Henry*, His Sons.
King of *England*, at the Battel of *Ednarchbray*,
Anno. 1106. where being taken Prisoner, his eyes
were put out, and he was sent to the Castle of
Cardiff in *Wales*; and after twenty years imprison-
ment, died there.

William the elder, surnamed *Miser*, who in the
right of Queen *Maud*, was Earl of *Flanders*, who
died six years before his Father.

Richard was born in *Normandy*, and as he was
hunting in the new Forrest, whilst he was young,
was slain by a Stag.

William surnamed *Rufus*, who succeeded his Fa-
ther in the Kingdom of *England*.

Henry surnamed *Beau-clerk*, or the *Fine Schol-*
lar,

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lar, who after his Brothers Death came to be King of England, and Duke of Normandy.

His
Daughters.

Cicily his eldest Daughter was by her Father made a Nun, and afterwards was chosen Abbess in the Monastery built by her father in *Caen*.

Constance his second Daughter, was first married to *Allain* Earle of *Little Britaine*, who was afterwards by King *William* made Earl of *Richmond*.

Alice, his third Daughter was married to *Steven* Earl of *Blays*.

Gundred his fourth Daughter was married to *William Warren*, who was the first Earl of *Surry*, in *England*.

Ella his fifth Daughter: some say, she dyed young.

Margeret, his youngest Daughter, who was contracted to *Alphonso* King of *Galicia* in *Spain*; but dyed before the marriage was consummated.

There was one *Randolph Peverel*, to whom *Edward the Confessor* was very bountifull, because he had married his kinswoman, the Daughter of *Ingelrick*, a man of great Nobility among the *English Saxons*. A Lady of that admirable beauty, that with her looks she conquered the Conquerour *William*, who desired nothing more than to be her Prisoner in Armes, which to effect, he begins to express a kind of love to the remembrance of her deceased Father *Ingelrick*, enriching the Colledge of *Martins Le Grand*, in *London*, first founded by him,

William the Conquerour.

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him, and her Uncle *Edward*. Then he honours and advances her two Brethren, *William Peverel*, Castellane, or keeper of *Dover* Castle, and *Payne Peverel*, Baron of *Bourn*, in *Cambridgshire*, the Founder of *Barnwell* Abbey, and Standard-bearer to *Robert*, Duke of *Normandy*, in the Holy War against the Infidels.

He prefers her kindred and Friends: He solicites her by the Messengers of the Devils Bedchamber, his sly Enchanting Bawdes, and comes sometimes himself (like *Jupiter*) in a Golden shower. Thus by these forcible demonstrations of his love, and unavoidable allurements (especially from a King) she was brought at length to his unlawfull Bed, unto whom she bare a Son named *William*, who was Lord of *Nottingham*, and Founder of *Lenton* Abby. The Lady his Mother (touched with remorse of Conscience for her sin) to expiate her guilt (for such was the Doctrine taught in those dayes) founded a College in *Hatfield Peverel*, in *Essex*, wherein, setting apart all worldly imployments, she spent the remainder of her dayes.

King *William*, having once settled himself in the Kingdom, divided a great part of it among his followers: To *Allen*, surnamed the *Red*, Earl of *Britain*, who came into *England* with him and was his Son in Law, he gave the Honour, and County of *Edwin*, within the Province of *York* by his Charter in these words.

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I *William* (surnamed the *Bastard*, King of *Eng-land*) give and grant to thee my Nephew *Allen*, Earl of *Britain*, and to thy Heirs for ever, all those Villages , Towns , and Lands , which were late in the possession of Earl *Edwin* in *Tork-shire*, with Knights Fees, Churches, and other liberties and customes as freely and as honourably as the said *Edwin* held them.

Given at the siege before *Torky*.

F I N I S.

